THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (e) Bills to the domestic consumers with sanctioned load of less than 11 KW are issued by DESU on an actual reading basis once in four months. In between a bi-monthly bill is issued on a provisional basis. In other categories, the bills are issued on a monthly basis. During the period when the meter is defective and awaiting replacement, DESU charges provisionally depending on the past average consumption or on the sanctioned load, wherever past average consumption is not available. When the meter is replaced an assessment is made for the period meter had been defective. Arrears are charged for the meter-defective period, in case the amount arrived at on assessment after replacement of the meter is higher than the provisional billing during the period, then the assessment is revised as per the tariff rules and conditions of supply for the period the meter had been defective. All previous provisional or ad-hoc bills as well as amounts actually paid are considered for adjustment in such cases.

Shortage of New Currency Notes

*316. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 119 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th November, 1992 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a servere shortage of new currency notes in the country; and

(b) if so, to what extent the shorage of new currency notes would be met after setting up of new currency note printing presses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) It has not been possible to fully meet the demand of fresh currency/bank notes.

(b) The capacity of the two-new currency note presses would be around 9900 million pieces per annum. This together with the present capacity will be adequate to meet the demand for fresh currency/bank notes in the country.

Functioning of UPSEB in Hilly Areas

*317. SHRI RAM DEO BHANDARI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have received complaints against the functioning of UP State Electricity Board, particularly, in the hilly Districts;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is only one cash collection counter at Pauri, District-Pauri Garhwal to meet the needs of the entire district thus causing much inconvenience to the consumers;

(c) whether the Central Government propose to open some new counters near Kandiyunun Sain, Acharikhal or near Pauri for the help of consumers for depositing their electricity bills conveniently;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the Inspectors never visit for physical meter reading, particularly in village-Bara, and there is no remedy to the public against overbilling in villages of Pauri Garhwal, District; and

(e) if so, what steps are being taken by the Central Government to set right the affairs of UP State Electricity Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (e) The State Electricity Boards are autonomous bodies created by the respective State Government in terms of the provisions of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948. The Central Government does not have any direct control over their day-to-day activities like opening of new cash collection counters, physical-verification of meter reading etc. However according to the Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board, cash towards payment of electricity bills is collected in Pauri-Garhwal District at various places viz. Pauri, Kotdwar, Srinagar, Kalagarh, Jchrikhal (Lansdown), Satpuly,

Naogaonkhel, Pokhara, Thailisen Bawabazar, Devparayag, etc. The Board organises camps from time to time in remote areas of District Pauri-Garhwal for cash collection and removal of consumers grievances. There is no proposal under consideration to open new cash collection counters.

The meter readings for light and fan consumers are normally taken by the Meter Readers and cases of wrong billing are promptly attended to.

Provision of Telephones Under OYT Category

*318 SHRIMATI ILA PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Telecommunications have drawn up an action plan to provide telephone connections within six months to those registered under OYT category and to those in general category in all major exchanges by the end of March, 1993;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the number of persons registered under OYT category in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) No Sir, not by the end of March, 1993

(b) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

(c) As on 1.11.92, there are 28112 applicants wait listed under OYT category in Delhi.

U.S. Investment in power projects of Andhra Pradesh

*319. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.S.A. is keen to invest in power generation projects of Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) Some U.S. companies, including NRIs, have expressed interest to invest in power projects in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) Details are given below:—

	Name of Companies	Project	Capacity (MW)
1.	GVK Industries (NRI)	Jegurupada (Godavari Basin) CCGT	172
2.	Spectrum Technologies (NRI)/CMS Generation and NTPC	Kakinada (Godavari Basin) CCGT	200
3.	Mission Energy/Ashok Leyland	Vishakhapatnam TPS	1000
4.	International Power Consortium	Krishnapatnam TPS	1000

Composition of Board of Directors of LIC

*320. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present composition of the Board of Directors of LIC;

(b) what are the particulars of the official and non-official Members of the Board;